



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES GRANT FOR FORT BERTHOLD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NEW TOWN, Date May 27, 2004---The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development presented a symbolic check for \$287,271 to the Fort Berthold Community College today during a groundbreaking ceremony at New Town. The grant funds were made available through a special Tribal College Initiative Grant under the Community Facilities Program of USDA Rural Development.

“The Bush Administration continues its efforts to strengthen rural communities, including Native American communities, through programs such as this,” said Rural Development State Director Clare Carlson.

The Rural Development grant dollars will be used in conjunction with dollars from the American Indian College Fund to help finance the addition of a daycare and student union to the Fort Berthold Community College campus. The new addition will provide 8,350 square feet for the student union facility and 3,540 square feet for the daycare center. Total cost of the project is \$1,539,260.

In 1996, Rural Development provided \$2,520,000 toward Phase II construction of the Fort Berthold Community College campus.

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead federal entity for rural economic and community development needs. Its mission is to deliver programs that will support increased economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. It administers financial and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development and critical community and technology infrastructure. ***Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities.***

In Fiscal Year 2003, USDA Rural Development provided over **\$73.5 million dollars** in loan and grant financing to North Dakota citizens. For more information, please visit our web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

Committed to the future of rural communities.

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